

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of responding to a request for data about an enterprise, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 storing a plurality of names for a single entity associated with the enterprise as a first
4 plurality of corresponding concepts in a database of concepts and relationships
5 among concepts, which database describes a plurality of entities associated
6 with the enterprise;
7 designating a first concept of the first plurality of corresponding concepts as a
8 normative concept;
9 receiving a request including data indicating a particular name of the plurality of
10 names; and
11 in response to receiving the request, sending a response including information
12 associated in the database with the first concept.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 storing in the database a first relationship of a first relationship type, the first
3 relationship defined for the first concept and an alternative concept of the first
4 plurality of corresponding concepts; and
5 storing in the database a second relationship of a second relationship type between the
6 first concept and a second concept not among the first plurality of
7 corresponding concepts,
8 wherein the second concept indicates the information included in the response.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein:
2 the request does not include data indicating a first name corresponding to the first
3 concept;
4 the particular name corresponds to a particular alternative concept of the first plurality
5 of corresponding concepts; and

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6 the database does not include a relationship defined for the second concept and the
7 particular alternative concept.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the request does not include data indicating a first
2 name corresponding to the first concept.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of names include at least one of a
2 synonym for a first name corresponding to the first concept, an acronym for the first name,
3 and a translation of the first name into a different language than a language of the first name.

1 6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first relationship includes an attribute indicating
2 the alternative concept is one of a synonym for the first concept, an acronym for the first
3 concept, and a translation into a different language than a language of a first name
4 corresponding to the first concept.

1 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein a synonym for the first name includes a misspelling
2 of the first name.

1 8. The method of Claim 5, wherein a synonym for the first name comprises an acronym
2 of the first concept or a translation into a different language than a language of a first name
3 corresponding to the first concept.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a name to the plurality
2 of names based on the data included in the request.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the entities include at least one of a set of products of
2 the enterprise, a set of services of the enterprise and a set of activities of the enterprise.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the set of activities of the enterprise include at least
2 one of administration, research, marketing, joint ventures and documentation.

12. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for responding to a request for data about an enterprise, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

- storing a plurality of names for a single entity associated with the enterprise as a first plurality of corresponding concepts in a database of concepts and relationships among concepts, which database describes a plurality of entities associated with the enterprise;
- indicating a first concept of the first plurality of corresponding concepts;
- receiving a request including data indicating a particular name of the plurality of names; and
- in response to receiving the request, sending a response including information associated in the database with the first concept.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, the instructions further cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

- storing in the database a first relationship of a first relationship type, the first relationship defined for the first concept and an alternative concept of the first plurality of corresponding concepts; and
- storing in the database a second relationship of a second relationship type between the first concept and a second concept not among the first plurality of corresponding concepts,

wherein the second concept indicates the information included in the response.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein:

- the request does not include data indicating a first name corresponding to the first concept;
- the particular name corresponds to a particular alternative concept of the first plurality of corresponding concepts; and
- the database does not include a relationship defined for the second concept and the particular alternative concept.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the request does not include
2 data indicating a first name corresponding to the first concept.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of names include
2 at least one of a synonym for a first name corresponding to the first concept, an acronym for
3 the first name, and a translation of the first name into a different language than a language of
4 the first name.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the first relationship includes
2 an attribute indicating the alternative concept is one of a synonym for the first concept, an
3 acronym for the first concept, and a translation into a different language than a language of a
4 first name corresponding to the first concept.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein a synonym for the first name
2 includes a misspelling of the first name.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the instructions further cause
2 the one or more processors to carry out the step of adding a name to the plurality of names
3 based on the data included in the request.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the entities include at least one
2 of a set of products of the enterprise, a set of services of the enterprise and a set of activities
3 of the enterprise.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20, wherein the set of activities of the
2 enterprise include at least one of administration, research, marketing, joint ventures and
3 documentation.

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1 22. A system for responding to a request for data about an enterprise, the system
2 comprising:
3 a means for storing a plurality of names for a single entity associated with the
4 enterprise;
5 a means for indicating a first name of the plurality of names;
6 a means for receiving a request including data indicating a particular name of the
7 plurality of names; and
8 a means for sending a response including information associated in a database with
9 the first name in response to receiving the request, which database describes a
10 plurality of entities associated with the enterprise.

1 23. The system of Claim 22, further comprising:
2 a means for storing a first relationship of a first relationship type, the first relationship
3 defined for the first name and an alternative name of the plurality of names;
4 and
5 a means for storing a second relationship of a second relationship type between the
6 first name and particular information not among the plurality of names,
7 wherein the particular information is the information included in the response.

1 24. The system of Claim 23, wherein:
2 the request does not include data indicating the first name;
3 the database does not include a relationship defined for the particular information and
4 the particular name.

1 25. The system of Claim 22, wherein the request does not include data indicating the first
2 name.

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1 26. The system of Claim 22, wherein the plurality of names include at least one of a
2 synonym for the first name, an acronym for the first name, and a translation of the first name
3 into a different language than a language of the first name.

1 27. The system of Claim 23, wherein the first relationship includes an attribute indicating
2 the alternative name is one of a synonym for the first name, an acronym for the first name,
3 and a translation into a different language than a language of the first name.

1 28. The system of Claim 26, wherein a synonym for the first name includes a misspelling
2 of the first name.

1 29. The system of Claim 22, further comprising a means for adding a name to the
2 plurality of names based on the data included in the request.

1 30. The system of Claim 22, wherein the entities include at least one of a set of products
2 of the enterprise, a set of services of the enterprise and a set of activities of the enterprise.

1 31. The system of Claim 30, wherein the set of activities of the enterprise include at least
2 one of administration, research, marketing, joint ventures and documentation.

1 32. A system for responding to a request for data about an enterprise, the system
2 comprising:
3 a database of concepts and relationships among concepts describing a plurality of
4 entities associated with the enterprise; and
5 a processor configured to perform the steps of
6 storing a plurality of names for a single entity associated with the enterprise as
7 a first plurality of corresponding concepts in the database;
8 indicating a first concept of the first plurality of corresponding concepts;

1 37. The system of Claim 33, wherein the first relationship includes an attribute indicating
2 the alternative concept is one of a synonym for the first concept, an acronym for the first
3 concept, and a translation into a different language than a language of a first name
4 corresponding to the first concept.

1 38. The system of Claim 36, wherein a synonym for the first name includes a misspelling
2 of the first name.

1 39. The system of Claim 32, the processor further configured to perform the step of
2 adding a name to the plurality of names based on the data included in the request.

1 40. The system of Claim 32, wherein the entities include at least one of a set of products
2 of the enterprise, a set of services of the enterprise and a set of activities of the enterprise.

1 41. The system of Claim 40, wherein the set of activities of the enterprise include at least
2 one of administration, research, marketing, joint ventures and documentation.

1 42. A method of responding to a request for data about an enterprise using a data store
2 that comprises a stored plurality of names for a single entity associated with the enterprise, a
3 first plurality of corresponding concepts in a database of concepts and relationships among
4 concepts, which database describes a plurality of entities associated with the enterprise, and
5 wherein a first concept of the first plurality of corresponding concepts is identified as a
6 normative concept, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

7 receiving a request including data indicating a particular name of the plurality of
8 names; and

9 in response to receiving the request, sending a response including information
10 associated in the database with the first concept.